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December 16, 2014

HSZC.org

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Sangha e-Newsletter 2014



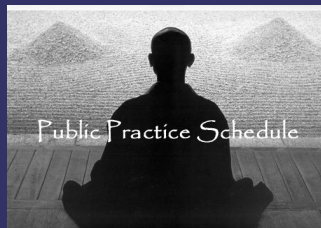
The entire world of the ten directions is one bright pearl

Some years after attaining the way, Xuansha instructed his students, saying, "the entire world of the ten directions is one bright pearl."

Once a monk asked him, "I heard that you said, 'the entire world of ten directions is one bright pearl.' How should I understand this?"

Xuanshan said, "the entire world of the ten directions is one bright pearl. What do you do with your understanding?"

The next day Xuansha asked the monk, "The entire world of the ten directions is one bright pearl. How do you understand this?"



Monday

*7:00 am Zazen

*7:40 am Morning Chanting Service

*Last Monday of each month, no morning schedule.

6:00 pm Zazen

6:40 pm Evening Chanting Service

Tuesday- Friday

6:00 am Zazen

6:40 am Kinhin (walking meditation)

6:50 am Zazen

7:20 am Chanting Service

7:40 am Soji (brief temple cleaning)

6:00 pm Zazen

6:40 pm Chanting Service

Thursdays Study Hour 7:30pm

Saturday



The monk said, "the entire world of the ten directions is one bright pearl. What do you do with your understanding?"

Xuanshan said, "I see you have worked out a way to get through the demon's cave on the black mountain."

Xuanshan is the first one to say, *The entire world Of the ten directions is one bright pearl*. It means the entire world of the ten directions is neither vast nor minute, neither square nor round. It is not neutral, not active, and not obvious. Because it is beyond the coming or going of birth and death, it is the coming and going of birth and death. Thus, past days, have already left here and the present moment starts from here. When we investigate the entire world of the ten directions, who can see it as bits and pieces, who can talk about it as something solid?

from:

[Treasury of the True Dharma Eye, Zen Master Dogen's Shobo Genzo edited by Kazuaki Tanahashi](#)

We are making our annual request to you to, **please support the ongoing expense of maintaining and offering our little Soto Zen Temple with redisntial student program in the Castro**. Any amount greatly appreciated and [click here](#) to read our official annual appeal letter. Thank you for your generosity!

Donations are tax deductible!

6:30 am Zazen
 7:10 am Chanting Service
 7:25 am Soji
 8:30 am Drop-in instruction
 9:25 am Zazen
 10:15 am Dharma Talk
 11:00 am Refreshments/Social



Some of the attendees & participants of the Shuso Ceremony December 7, 2014 - Taken by [Diagon Gaither](#) and provided by Shogen, Tom Hawkins



Upcoming Events:

Dharma Talks - [Rev. Myō Lahey](#) - Dec 20, Jan 3, 10, 17...2015 @10:15am

Guest Speaker Saturdays @10:15am - December 27 [Tokuden Shinki, Mark Lancaster](#)

Full Moon Ceremony - Saturday, January 3rd @ 11am - the Full wolf, old, snow, or after yule Moon. Amid the cold and deep snows of midwinter, the wolf packs howled hungrily outside Indian villages. Thus, the name for January's full Moon. Sometimes it was also referred to as the Old Moon, or the Moon After Yule. Some called it the Full Snow Moon, but most tribes applied that name to the next Moon.



weekly meditation group for those living with HIV, their friends, families, community supporters & anyone who wants to join us!
Thursdays & Fridays

10:30 am zazen

11:00 am garden socializing

Sangha Council - TBD - Last session: November 8th 2014

New Year 2015! - As we wrap up the 2014 year, we gather to ring our large temple bell 108 times with prostrations and observe some additional Zen customs to welcome in the new year along with a fire offering of things to be left behind in 2014 and start anew in 2015 with a toast. Please join us for this event, more details to come... (We will additionally observe Chinese new year and goals set with a new Daruma, as we have been the past few years for the year of the Sheep/Goat in mid-February).

Founder's Memorial - Issan's Memorial is generally on the 6th of the month, & the memorial for Philip Whalen is generally on the 26th @ 6:40pm

Practice Discussions are now available to be scheduled with Rev. Daiko Tanzen, David Bullock. Please contact him directly or email: hszc108@yahoo.com to request to schedule time.

Next Board of Directors' Meeting - Second Wednesdays of the month January 14 @ 7:30pm You're welcome to attend & observe.

Study Hour - Thursdays @7:30pm: the Vimalakīrti Sūtra, also called Vimalakīrtinirdeśa Sūtra. There are multiple translations, we focus a bit on the Dr Robert Thurman version, but welcome any version to compare the translations. We can share books for anyone who wants to join in, or feel free to purchase a copy and join us (many are very low cost online). Check our twitter page for any changes in schedule.

Closure & Schedule Changes coming up!

No Morning (only) Zazen & Chanting/Service on the Last Monday of every month

December 24, 25, 26 for the Christmas Holiday
January 1st for New Years day

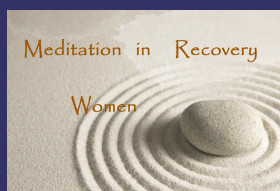
Hartford Street Zen Center's Annual Winter Light Retreat & Fall 2014 Study Period ---

Has concluded! We had a great time taking time from our normal daily



weekly meditation group for men
& women in recovery from
addiction

Fridays, 7:30 pm - 9 pm



(Women only)
monthly meditation group for
women in recovery from addiction.

First Thurs, 7:15 pm -8:45 pm

life hustle and bustle schedule ("in the mundane world") to care for our light, embrace and increase its illumination and then at the end of our concentrated time, release it from our Temple container into the world.

This concluded the third [Ango](#) period at Hartford Street Zen Center in its multi-decade history. The last Ango and Shuso ceremony were completed in 1994 for our little temple. We want to wholeheartedly thank all those who attended a more heavy schedule, committed to what they could and helped keep the energy and effort alive as well as an especially deep bow to those who pitched-in on the logistics and made this event a successful and joy-filled period of HSZC history.

We were lead by our Head Student/Monk, Rev. Daiko Tanzen, David Bullock and guided by our Abbot, Rev. Myo Lahey and we took another step this year in our formal meal process by including Oryoki sets, training, and observance at our dining room table since we are without tans and enough resources to serve in the zendo. Another step closer to our Japanese tradition(s).

The weather gave us a nice comfortable atmosphere, it seemed all took good care of their bodies and posture and the tone had a strong sense of comfort, compassion, support, ease and harmony.

The Shuso ceremony was performed well; with just enough resources to perform each task and was a touching high point of the past months.

Deep bows to Sheryl-san who kept us fed, delicious meals in our Oryoki bowls!

Advice from our Shuso "Watch out for Vimalakirti!"

We look forward to the next round of Ango periods, next year's Winter Light Retreat/Sesshin and more future HSZC community Shusos. We hope you can feel the light we released into the world! It is after all, your light...

Words From Our Abbot: Rev Myō Lahey

There's a traditional arrangement of an angō, that it should be 90 days but even in Japan its not always 90 days, so here we made arrangements to spend 6 weeks in calm abiding. Ango means peaceful meeting and not all

angos have that a feel to them. Some are, some people seek to ramp up in energy which can give an almost frantic feeling to an ango because people are so intent on something... I don't know what... intent on something, and I think the emphasis, even back in Buddha's time is that we abide together and do our practice together in peace, and that's really elusive. I think many of us would agree that peace is elusive.

In fact Mr. W. [Butler Yeats](#) says it comes dropping slow and in fact if you pursue it, it will elude you forever. So the idea is, just as in our sitting we don't pursue peace, we let it arrive, we let it arise in us and the house here and its furnishing and the various practice observations here is all arranged to foster that arising. Sometimes people look at angos as Zen boot camp "we're gonna make a man out of ya' whether you like it or not" but I personally don't think that is very wholesome, myself. I would suggest that we all study both individually and together what that means, to let peace arise. Let peace be as it were, and it's kind of magical the way that is microcosmically true for each of us in our practice and also for a community of practitioners.

We can just have a look at how that happens. As Suzuki Roshi puts it so succinctly in his book, the whole book, [Zen Mind Beginner's Mind](#) is about 'letting peace happen rather than trying to make it answer to your call'. The peace that we can contrive isn't very genuine peace. It tends to be rather shallow, and brittle, but peace that arises naturally from our nature is very deep and quite durable.

Yesterday, without being invited, I suggested to someone is going to give a little presentation that he read the first paragraph of Suzuki Roshi's talk 'mind waves' from [Zen Mind Beginner's Mind](#), where he in just one paragraph gives a perfect summation of zazen practice; where he says 'just if a thought comes to your mind, just let it come in, it's all right, it won't stay long'. That couple of sentences is a precis of centuries of Abhidharma teaching. Buddha-Dharma which makes it so clear that nature of everything is that of arising and passing away, and that includes our body-mind and all the phenomena we associate with it. So in sitting, whatever arises in sitting just let it in and let it go. Let them troop in and out, all those thoughts. Then he says by and by your mind will settle in itself and manifest peace, if you will let that happen instead of trying and rearrange things. This is what is meant by pure effort, unencumbered by some special agenda. Even though we would say "an agenda of being peaceful is pretty wholesome isn't it?" and yeah it's pretty wholesome, but it's not as powerful as pure effort, pure effort not aimed



at anything. Just finding the body-mind's place of balance, which is always with us, and abiding there.

[HSZC Dharma talk 10 2014](#)



[Click here to see this fun little comic story](#)



Prisoners who are Buddhist or Buddhist Interested, need you!

From Rev Jeffrey Schneider of SFZC:

Every month we get letters from prisoners all over the United States, asking for information about Buddhist practice, for books and to be connected with a Buddhist pen pal. Every letter is answered personally, books and articles are

sent out at no cost (both to individuals and to prison libraries) and we make every effort to pair prisoners and volunteer pen pals.

I am writing to ask that you make known to your sangha members <<you!>> the opportunity to participate in this work by becoming volunteer pen pals. As our prisoners are spread out across the country, so are our volunteers. All letters come to SFZC and are forwarded to the volunteer. The identity and location of the pen pal is protected.

As someone who has been a pen pal for many years, (long before I assumed the position of coordinator), I can attest that the opportunity to make a positive difference in the life of another person, at so little cost to myself in terms of time and effort, is a rare gift. I have received many times what I have given.

To offer the gift of support to another Human being and build a friendship through written correspondence, please reach out to Jim Shalkham at: jim_shalkham@yahoo.com

Other Holidays or LGBTIQ Events:

[Chanuka](#) - Dec 16-24

[Saturnalia](#) - Dec 17

[Winter Solstice](#) - Dec 21

[Mithra's Birth](#) - Dec 25

[Christmas](#) - Dec 25

[Kwanzaa Begins](#) - Dec 26

[New Year's Eve](#) - Dec 31

[New Year 2015](#) - Jan 1, 2015



[Additional LGBTQQI Events here](#) - OR - [found Here](#)



Returning the staff to the Abbot in the Shuso Ceremony, Dec 7 - 2014

Seeking a **LGBTIQQ**, **Buddhist** space for your wedding? HSZC & Abbot Rev. Myō Lahey can be a part of this amazing & love filled ceremony. HSZC can house your Zen Buddhist Wedding ceremony & Rev Myō can perform weddings! Please email

hszc108@yahoo.com, call us, or a better way yet is to stop in & discuss during our publicly open hours.



Abbot, Hartford Street Zen Center (HSZC) --- Reverend Myō Lahey



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Please submit stories, reflections, personal news, artwork & photography for future newsletters to

KeiDo at tetsugen.keido@yahoo.com
May this newsletter find you well & equanimous! __/|__

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